DESHBANDHU CHITTARANJAN DAS

Brilliant lawyer, talented poet, farsighted statesman – Chittaranjan Das had all it takes to make life prosperous and peaceful, but he chose hardship and suffering for 'he dreamed and thought and talked of the freedom of India, and of nothing else.' In return, he received in abundance the undying gratitude and love from his countrymen. Deshbandhu is remembered to this day for his matchless service and sacrifice.

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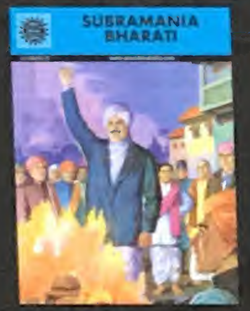

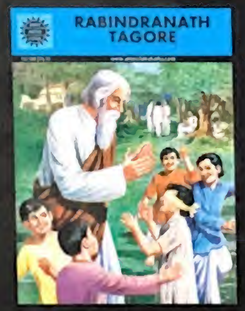

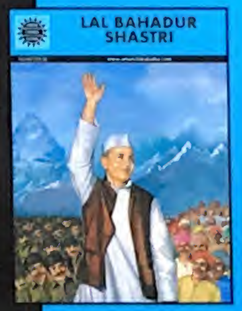

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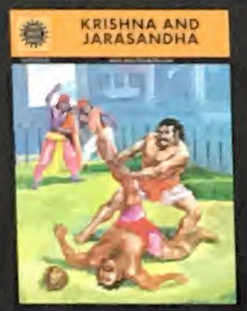

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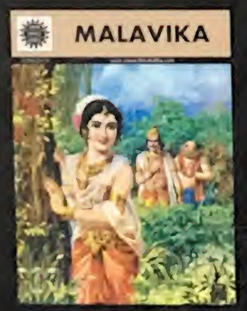

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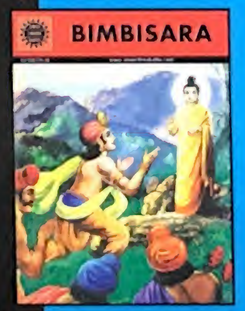

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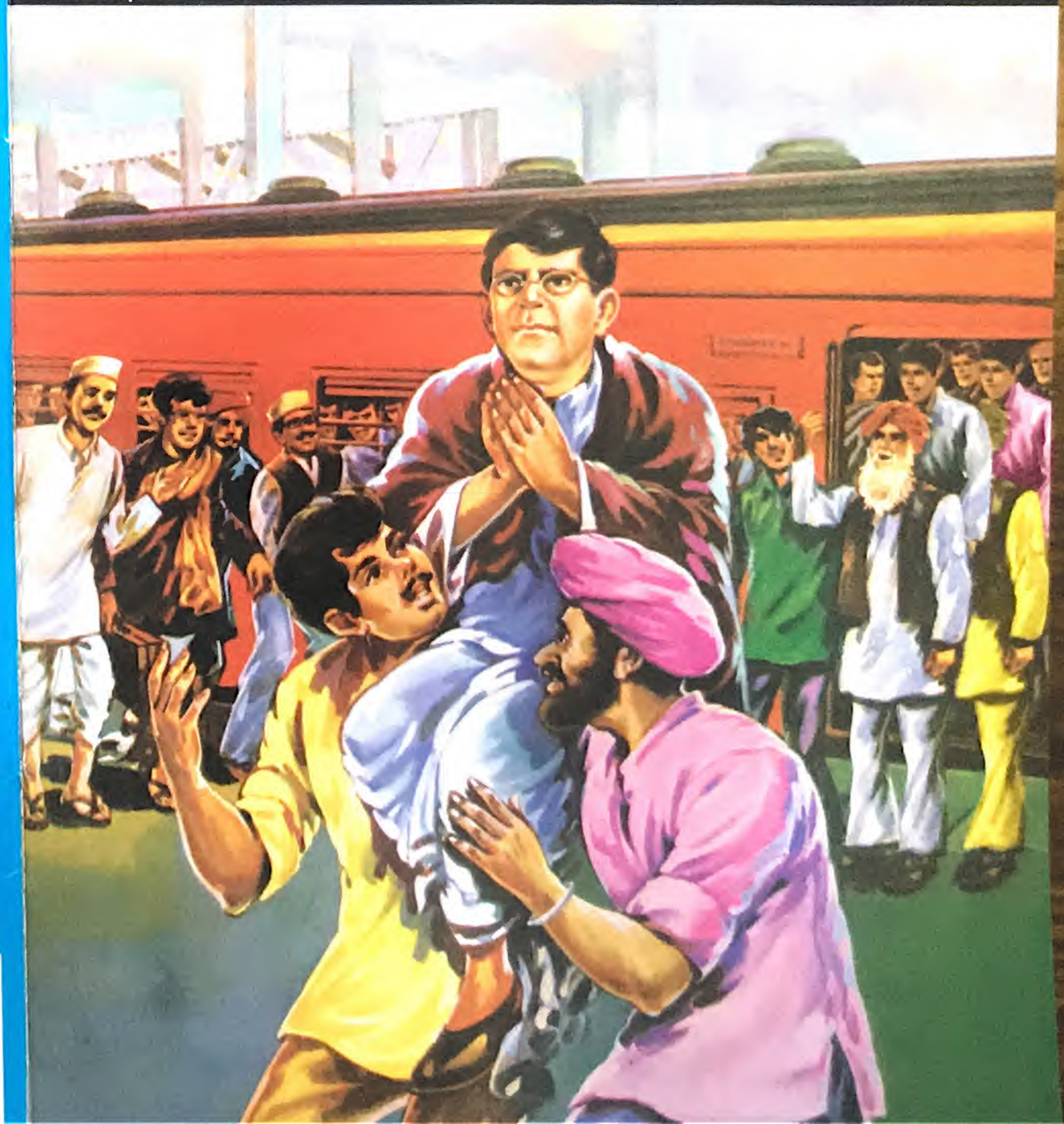


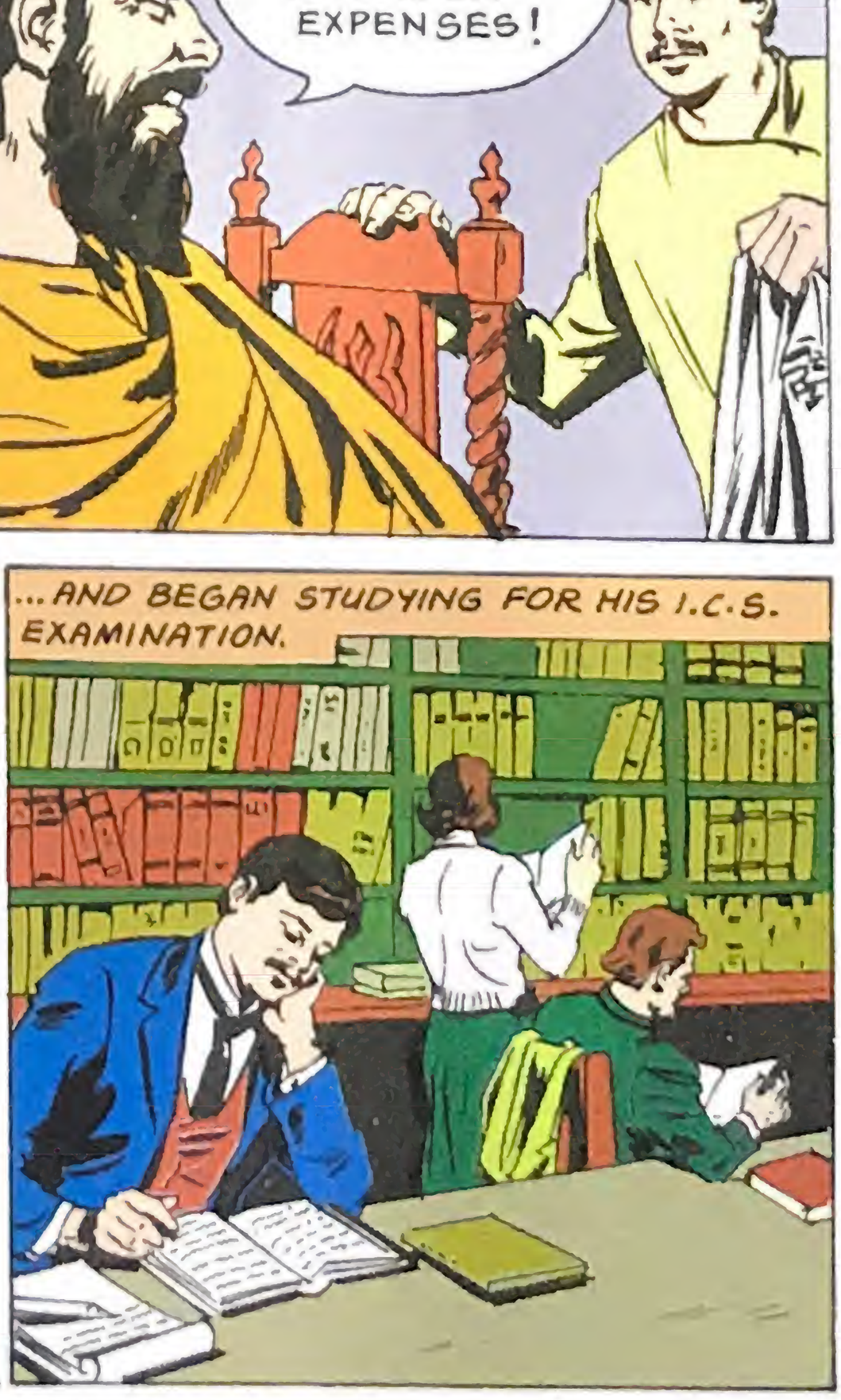
DESHBANDHU CHITTARANJAN DAS

CHITTARANJAN DAS WAS BORN IN CALCUTTA ON NOVEMBER 5, 1870, IN A FAMILY OF EMINENT LAWYERS. WHEN HE WAS 20, HE GRADUATED WITH DISTINCTION FROM CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

SO IT WAS NATURAL THAT HIS FATHER SHOULD WANT HIM TO BECOME AN I.C.S. OFFICER.

AND SO CHITTARANJAN ARRIVED IN LONDON IN 1890...

...AND BEGAN STUDYING FOR HIS I.C.S. EXAMINATION.



ONE DAY IN 1892 —

DAS, HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST? THE LIBERAL PARTY HAS CHOSEN DADABHAI NAOROJI AS ONE OF ITS CANDIDATES FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

THAT'S GREAT NEWS!

HE MUST WIN. IT WOULD MEAN A STRONG VOICE FOR INDIA IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

DAS TOOK AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AROUND THAT TIME LORD SALISBURY, A MINISTER, REFERRED TO DADABHAI AS "THAT BLACK MAN".

DAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE STATEMENT AT A MEETING OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

...LET ME REPEAT— THE HONOURABLE MINISTER IS WELL WITHIN HIS RIGHTS TO CRITICIZE THE POLICIES OF HIS OPPONENT, BUT NOT HIS PERSON.

IN FACT HE WHOM THE MINISTER CALLS "BLACK" IS A SHADE FAIRER THAN THE MINISTER HIMSELF!

AND A FAR FINER PERSON TOO!

DADABHAI NAOROJI, THE FOUNDER OF THE FRIENDS OF INDIA SOCIETY, WAS A POPULAR AND RESPECTED PERSONALITY ON THE BRITISH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCENE. BUT HE LOST THE ELECTION BY A NARROW MARGIN.

AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS COST CHITTARANJAN HIS ENTRY INTO THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE DAY THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED —

THE CIVIL SERVICE DOES NOT WANT ME. HOW DISAPPOINTED FATHER WILL BE!

BUT IF HIS FATHER WAS DISAPPOINTED, HE DID NOT SHOW IT IN THE LETTER HE WROTE TO DAS.

...NEVER MIND, CHITTO. DO NOT BE DISHEARTENED. TAKE UP LAW. YOU WERE BORN IN A FAMILY OF LAWYERS.

DAS TOOK HIS FATHER'S ADVICE, WAS CALLED TO THE BAR THE SAME YEAR, AND SET SAIL FOR INDIA IN 1893.

WHEN HE GOT HOME —

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, CHITTO.

BUT YOU DON'T LOOK YOUR OLD SELF, FATHER.

IT'S YOUR DEBTS. THEY'VE WORN YOU DOWN.

BUT THEY WON'T ANY MORE, NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

DAS STARTED PRACTICE AT THE CALCUTTA COURT. THE FIRST DAYS WERE A STRUGGLE. HE HAD TO WAIT FOR CLIENTS.

IN THOSE DAYS LAWYERS HAD THEIR OWN CARRIAGES. BUT DAS COULD NOT AS YET AFFORD ONE!

ONE TICKET TO ESPLANADE, PLEASE.

HE USUALLY WENT TO THE COURT BY TRAM AND RETURNED HOME ON FOOT.

ONE EVENING —

CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT, DAS?

NO, THANK YOU! I FIND WALKING GOOD FOR MY HEALTH.

GRADUALLY, HOWEVER, HIS PRACTICE IMPROVED.

BABU, YOU MUST TAKE UP MY CASE.

LET ME STUDY IT.

BUT IN 1896 A FRESH CONTINGENCY AROSE AT HOME.

I AM DEEP IN DEBT AS IT IS. AND NOW THIS.

WHAT, FATHER?

I STOOD A MAN THIRTY THOUSAND RUPEES IN SURETY AND THE FELLOW HAS VANISHED! HIS CREDITORS TOO WILL PESTER US. WE'LL HAVE NO PEACE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO.

WE WILL JOINTLY FILE AN INSOLVENCY PETITION

NO! NO! NOT THAT!

IMAGINE THE DISGRACE. PEOPLE WILL SHUN US. YOUR PRACTICE WILL BE RUINED.

FATHER, IF MY CLIENTS ARE CONVINCED THAT I AM A COMPETENT BARRISTER, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO COME TO ME!

HIS FATHER RELUCTANTLY GAVE IN.

THE PETITION WAS FILED, THE CASE ADMITTED AND THE DECREE OF INSOLVENCY ISSUED.

FATHER'S CREDITORS WILL BE UNHAPPY WITH THE AMOUNT THEY'LL GET AFTER THE COURT AUCTIONS OUR ESTATES AND EFFECTS.

I MUST WORK HARD AND ONE DAY MAKE GOOD THEIR LOSSES.

IN SPITE OF THESE PRESSURES, DAS FOUND TIME TO WRITE POETRY, A PURSUIT HE EXCELLED IN AND ENJOYED. HIS FIRST ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS, MALANCHA, WAS PUBLISHED IN 1896.

POEM OF DESHBANDHU IN HIS OWN HANDWRITING

THE TONE OF ITS CONTENTS HOWEVER WAS TOO RADICAL EVEN FOR THE REFORMIST BRAHMO SAMAJ TO WHICH HE BELONGED.

HIS WORKS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT HE HAS NO REGARD FOR BRAHMO IDEALS NOR RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF ITS ELDERS.

AROUND THIS TIME, DAS'S MARRIAGE WAS FIXED. PIQUED BY THE YOUNG MAN'S CRITICISM, THE ACHARYAS OF BRAHMO SAMAJ DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE WEDDING. BUT DAS INSISTED THAT THEY HEAR HIM OUT BEFORE THEY DID.

...AND SO I CONCLUDE—WE BRAHMO SAMAJISTS CALL OURSELVES REFORMISTS*. IS THIS THE WAY ENLIGHTENED REFORMISTS REACT TO CRITICISM?

DAS WON THE DAY AND WAS MARRIED TO BASANTI DEVI IN 1897, ACCORDING TO BRAHMO RITES, WITH THE ACHARYAS AS WITNESSES.

* a person who works to change things from within society

IN 1905, THE BRITISH PARTITIONED BENGAL ON COMMUNAL LINES. THERE WAS A STRONG REACTION FROM THE PEOPLE.

BENGAL IS ONE. HINDUS AND MUSLIMS ARE ONE.

VANDE MATARAM!

THE GOVERNMENT CAME DOWN WITH A HEAVY HAND ON THE DEMONSTRATORS.

SEVERAL YOUNG MEN SERIOUSLY THOUGHT OF RESORTING TO ARMS TO OVERTHROW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THEY LOOKED TO AUROBINDO FOR GUIDANCE.

DAS WAS, FOR SOME TIME, ASSOCIATED WITH THESE REVOLUTIONARIES.

BUT HE HAD PRACTICALLY GIVEN UP ACTIVE POLITICS TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS LEGAL CAREER. AND THERE HIS REPUTATION STEADILY GAINED GROUND AND SO DID HIS INCOME! HE WAS EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES, AND EARNED FAME FOR HIS SKILL IN CROSS EXAMINATION.

MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS TO CURB THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES. ONE DAY —

DAS! AUROBINDO TOO HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALIPORE CONSPIRACY.

WHAT!

GHOSE TOO ARRESTED! AND WITH BARELY ANY FUNDS FOR DEFENCE!

KNOWING THIS DAS ACCEPTED THE BRIEF EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT A SET-BACK IN HIS OWN INCOME, ANOTHER ROUND OF BORROWING, AND HARDSHIP FOR THE FAMILY. NIGHT AND DAY HE PORED OVER HIS LAW BOOKS OBLIVIOUS OF ALL ELSE. THE TRIAL BEGAN IN 1908...

...AND WENT ON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HIS CONCLUDING ADDRESS TO THE JURY ITSELF TOOK NINE DAYS! PRESENTED IN THE FIRST PERSON, IT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE SOUL OF AUROBINDO.

... DO NOT IMPUTE TO ME CRIMES I AM NOT GUILTY OF, DEEDS AGAINST WHICH MY WHOLE NATURE REVOLTS AND WHICH, HAVING REGARD TO MY MENTAL CAPACITY, IS SOMETHING WHICH COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY ME. IF IT IS AN OFFENCE TO PREACH THE IDEAL OF FREEDOM, I ADMIT HAVING DONE IT... YOU WILL NEVER GET OUT OF ME A DENIAL OF THAT CHARGE...

HE HAS ACTED AGAINST THE LAW OF THE LAND!

THE WHOLE EDIFICE OF BRITISH RULE IS BASED ON BRUTE FORCE AND HAS NO MORAL SANCTION.

FINALLY HE SUMMED UP.

MY APPEAL TO YOU THEREFORE IS THAT A MAN LIKE THIS... STANDS TRIAL NOT ONLY BEFORE THIS BAR, BUT BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF HISTORY. LONG AFTER THIS CONTROVERSY IS HUSHED... THE WORLD WILL LOOK UPON HIM AS A PROPHET OF NATIONALISM AND A LOVER OF HUMANITY.

THE SPELLBOUND JURY GAVE ITS VERDICT AND AUROBINDO WAS AQUITTED IN MAY 1909.

THE CASE WON DAS INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM AS ONE OF THE FOREMOST BARRISTERS IN THE WORLD AND NATIONAL ACCLAIM AS A GREAT PATRIOT.

HIS SELFLESS WORK OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS PAID HIM RICH, THOUGH UNSOUGHT, DIVIDENDS. HIS REPUTATION SOARED AND SO DID HIS INCOME. HE NOW OWNED A CARRIAGE AND LIVED IN STYLE.

THE TIME HAD COME TO FULFIL THE VOW HE HAD MADE TO HIMSELF YEARS AGO.

PLEASE MAKE A LIST OF ALL MY FATHER'S CREDITORS, AND THEIR DUES.

BUT, CHITTO, YOUR FATHER AND YOU WERE DECLARED INSOLVENT. YOU ARE NOT LEGALLY BOUND TO REPAY THOSE DEBTS!

PERHAPS NOT, LEGALLY — BUT DEFINITELY SO, MORALLY! THEY HELPED MY FATHER WHEN HE WAS IN NEED.

A FEW DAYS LATER THE MAN WAS BACK.

YOUR JOB IS DONE! I HAVE SPOKEN TO SOME OF THE CREDITORS AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO REDUCE THEIR CLAIMS.

BUT I DID NOT ASK YOU TO DO THAT! I WILL CLEAR MY FATHER'S DEBTS IN FULL AND WITH INTEREST.

ONE WHO LEAST EXPECTED THE CHEQUE HE RECEIVED, WAS S.R. MULLICK, A CHILDHOOD FRIEND. HIS FATHER HAD ONCE LENT DAS'S FATHER SOME MONEY!

WHAT IS THIS?

CHITTO IS SYSTEMATICALLY CLEARING OLD DEBTS.

RETURNING MONEY MY FATHER LENT HIS FATHER! HMMPH! WOULD I HAVE DONE THE SAME? I WONDER...

ON NO FRONT DID DAS LET THE TEMPTATION OF MONEY DESTROY HIS LOFTY VALUES OR HIS DEEP LOVE FOR HIS MOTHERLAND AND THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO FREE HER.

I CANNOT TAKE UP YOUR CASE. I HAVE TO GO TO CHITTAGONG* TO DEFEND SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS.

BUT, SIR, WE DEPEND ON YOU. WE'LL PAY YOU Rs. 25,000 AS A RETAINER!

THEN YOU CAN EASILY GET ANOTHER GOOD LAWYER. MY PENNILESS CLIENTS OUT THERE CAN'T. I MUST GO TO THEM. I AM SORRY.

NOT ONLY DID HE GIVE PRIORITY TO PATRIOTS BUT OFTEN DIPPED INTO HIS OWN BANK BALANCE WHEN HE TOOK UP THEIR CASES!

* CHITTAGONG — NOW IN BANGLADESH

NO LESS GENEROUS WAS HE TO THE NEEDY. AND IN SUCH CASES HE PREFERRED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. ONE MORNING AS HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE COURT HE SAW AN OLD MAN AT THE GATE.

ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEBODY ?

I WANT TO MEET CHITTARANJAN BABU. I DESPERATELY NEED SOME MONEY AND I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT HIS GENE-ROSITY.

CHITTARANJAN MUST HAVE GONE TO THE COURT. COME IN! LET US TRY AND FIND HIM THERE.

WHEN THEY REACHED THE COURT —

PLEASE WAIT HERE. I'LL FIND HIM AND SEND HIM TO YOU.

A LITTLE LATER, A CHAPRASSI CAME TO THE OLD MAN WITH A CHEQUE.

THIS IS FOR YOU. DAS MOSHAY HAS SENT IT.

BUT HE HAS NOT EVEN SEEN ME! TAKE ME TO HIM! I WANT TO THANK HIM!

THE CHAPRASSI LED HIM TO DAS.

OH! IT WAS YOU!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO...

IT'S NOT HIS FAULT, SIR. I INSISTED ON SEEING YOU.

DO YOU THINK I COULD ACCEPT HELP WITHOUT THANKING MY BENEFACTOR?

MAY GOD BLESS YOU, SON!

BY THE YEAR 1918 DAS HAD BEGUN TO TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT. HE ADDRESSED SEVERAL MEETINGS.

INDIA SHOULD BECOME SELF-RELIANT. WE SHOULD MEET THE WEST AS EQUALS!

INSTEAD THE ROWLATT BILL * WAS PASSED AND EVEN PEACEFUL UNARMED PERSONS WERE LATHI-CHARGED...

...AND IMPRISONED...

...OR SHOWERED WITH BULLETS AS IN THE SHAMEFUL, MINDLESS MASSACRE OF INNOCENTS ORDERED BY GENERAL DYER AT JALLIANWALA BAUGH IN 1919.

THE PROPOSAL THAT DAS BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL ENQUIRY CONDUCTED BY THE BRITISH WAS REJECTED. NOR WERE THE PUNJAB LEADERS PERMITTED TO RECORD THEIR STATEMENTS. SO THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS SET UP AN UNOFFICIAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE OF WHICH GANDHI WAS THE CHAIRMAN AND DAS ONE OF THE FOUR MEMBERS.

* THE BILL, AIMED AT SUPPRESSING THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, EMPOWERED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO DETAIN ANYONE WITHOUT A TRIAL.

BUT IT WAS ONLY DURING THE NAGPUR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS IN DECEMBER 1920 THAT DAS PLUNGED HEADLONG INTO THE MOVEMENT.

THE TIME HAS COME TO RESORT TO NON-CO-OPERATION IN EARNEST. I CALL ON LAWYERS TO BOYCOTT THE COURTS, ON STUDENTS TO BOYCOTT THEIR INSTITUTIONS, AND ON ALL MY COUNTRYMEN TO REFUSE TO PAY TAXES.

FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO BOYCOTT COLLEGES, I SHALL INSTITUTE A NATIONAL COLLEGE. AS FOR MYSELF, I SHALL NO MORE PRACTISE LAW.

HE WAS AT THE PEAK OF HIS CAREER WHEN HE TOOK THIS OATH.

ON HIS RETURN TO CALCUTTA—

BASANTI, I WANT TO GIVE UP ALL LUXURIES AND LEAD A SIMPLE LIFE.

BASANTI SMILED.

ISN'T SMOKING THE HOOKAH A LUXURY?

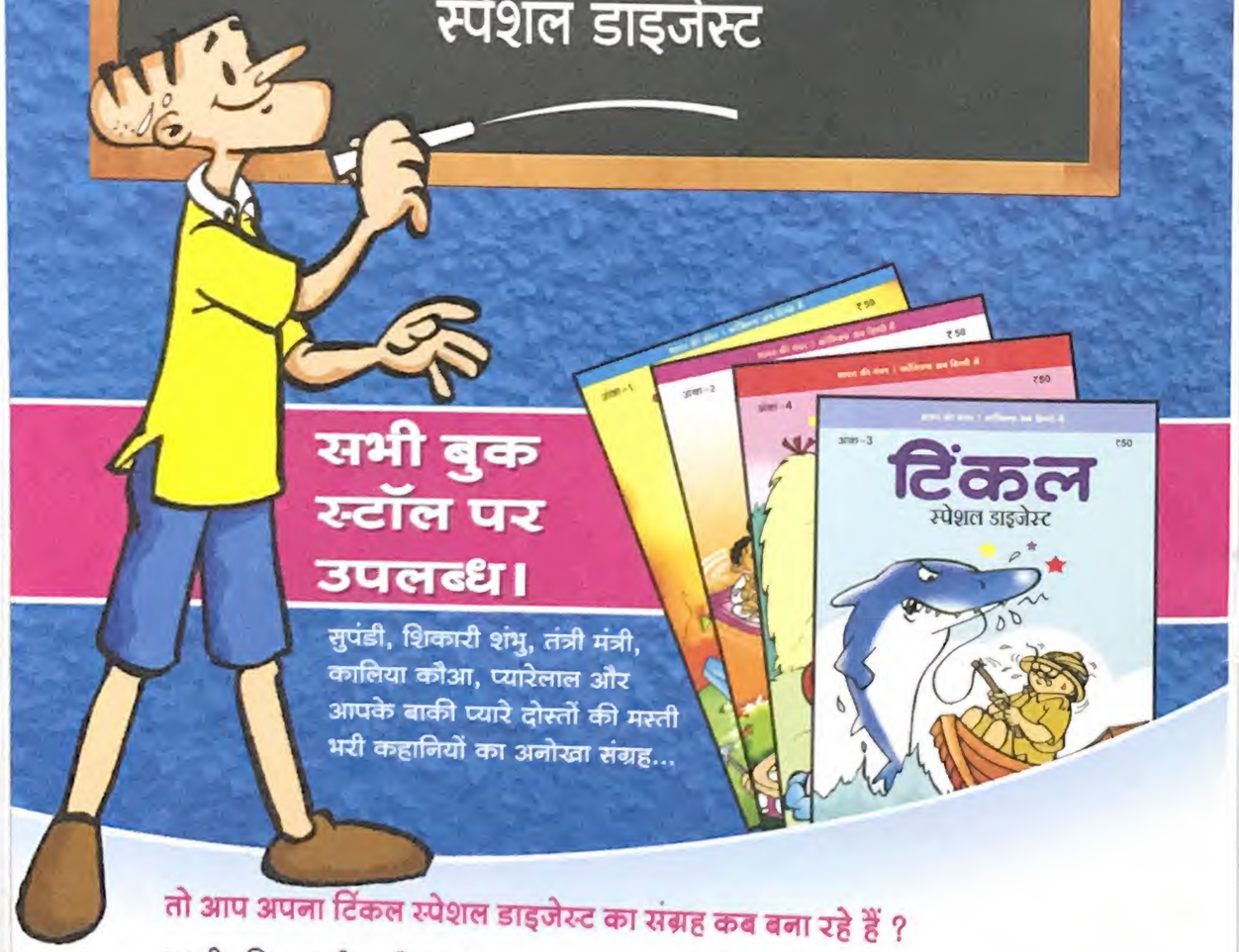
IT IS!

CONTD. ON PAGE 19

मस्ती, मनोरंजन और ज्ञान का भंडार

टिंकल

स्पेशल डाइजेस्ट



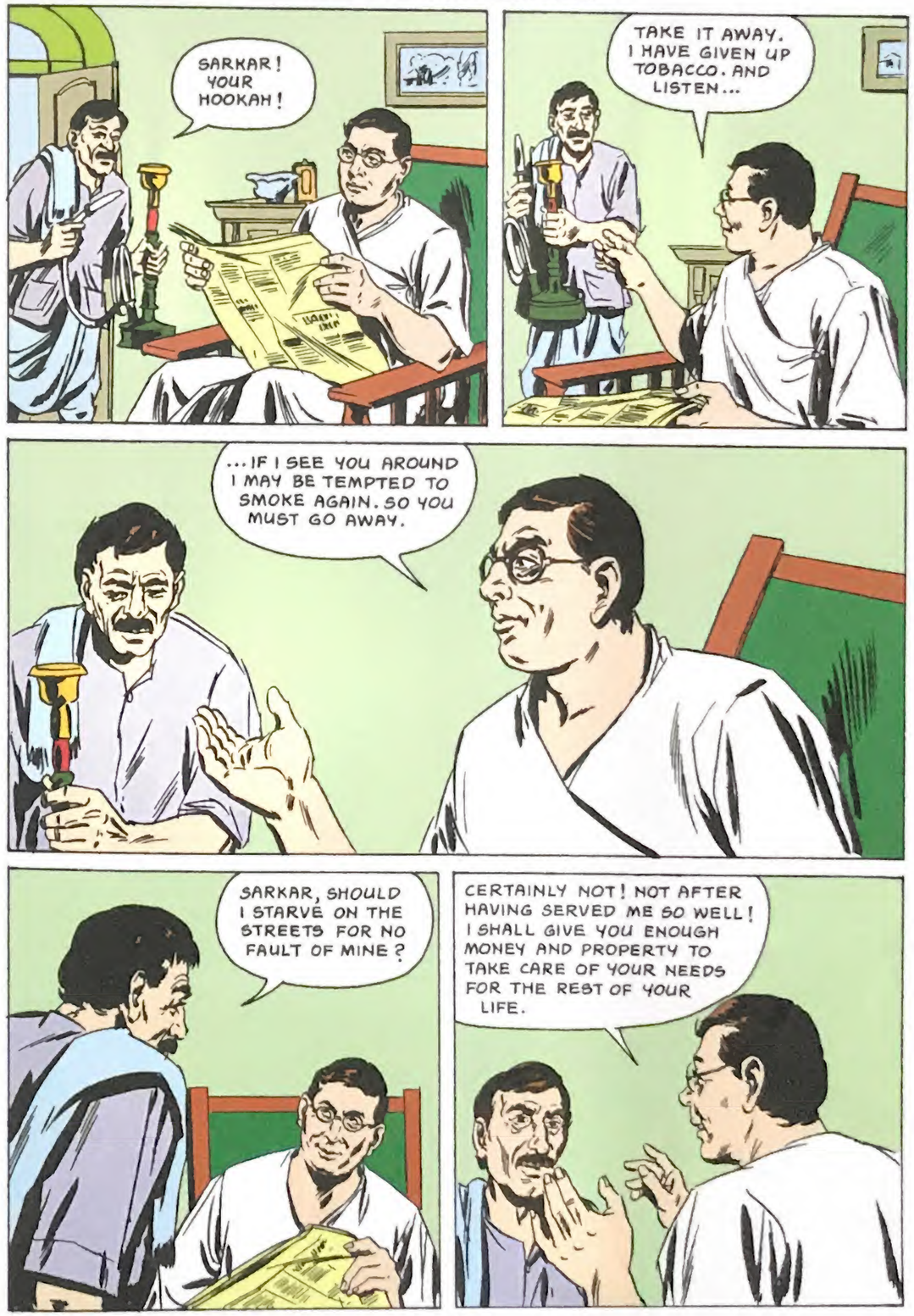
सभी बुक स्टॉल पर उपलब्ध।

सुपंडी, शिकारी शंभु, तंत्री मंत्री, कालिया कौआ, प्यारेलाल और आपके बाकी प्यारे दोस्तों की मस्ती भरी कहानियों का अनोखा संग्रह...

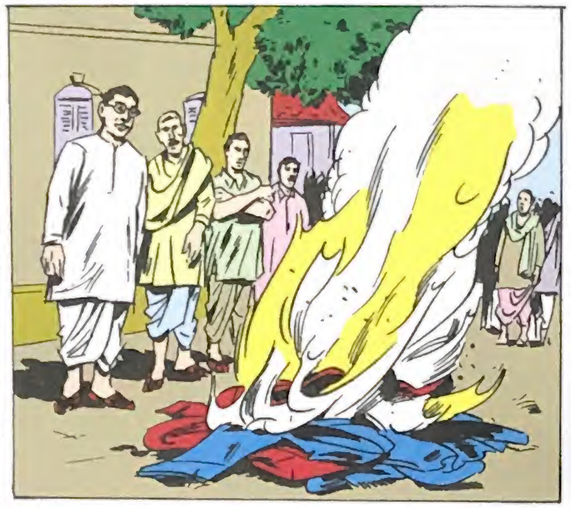
तो आप अपना टिंकल स्पेशल डाइजेस्ट का संग्रह कब बना रहे हैं ?

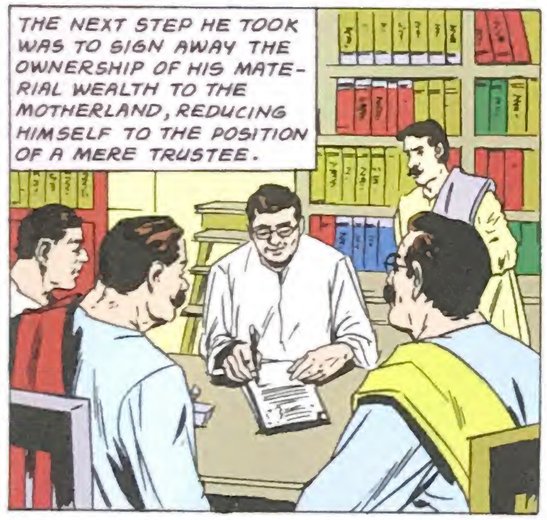
अपनी प्रति आज ही सुरक्षित करें...

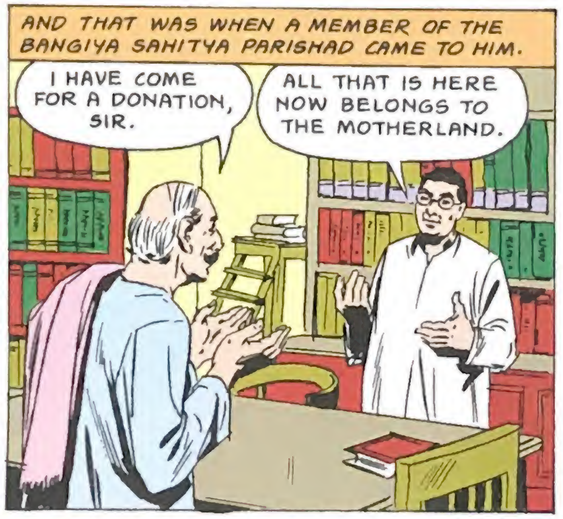
जल्दी ही अपनी निकटतम बुक स्टॉल से टिंकल स्पेशल डाइजेस्ट की प्रति खरीदें या लॉग ऑन करें www.amarchitrakatha.com



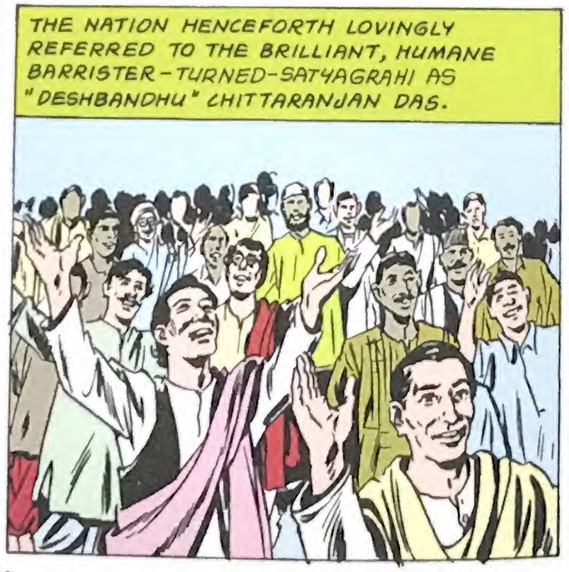
THESE WESTERN CLOTHES MUST GO, TOO. I'LL MAKE A FINE BONFIRE OF THEM.



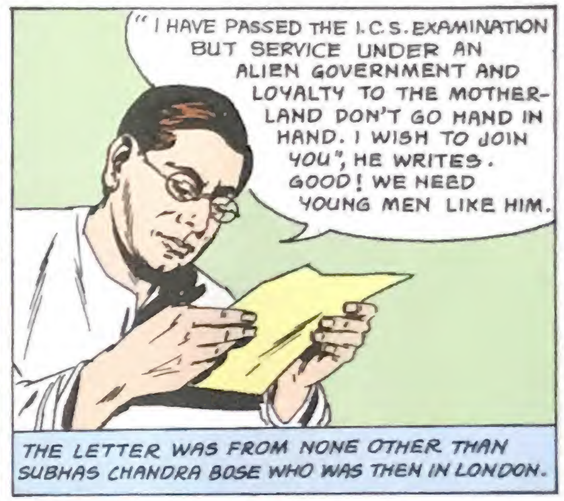

THE NEXT STEP HE TOOK WAS TO SIGN AWAY THE OWNERSHIP OF HIS MATERIAL WEALTH TO THE MOTHERLAND, REDUCING HIMSELF TO THE POSITION OF A MERE TRUSTEE.

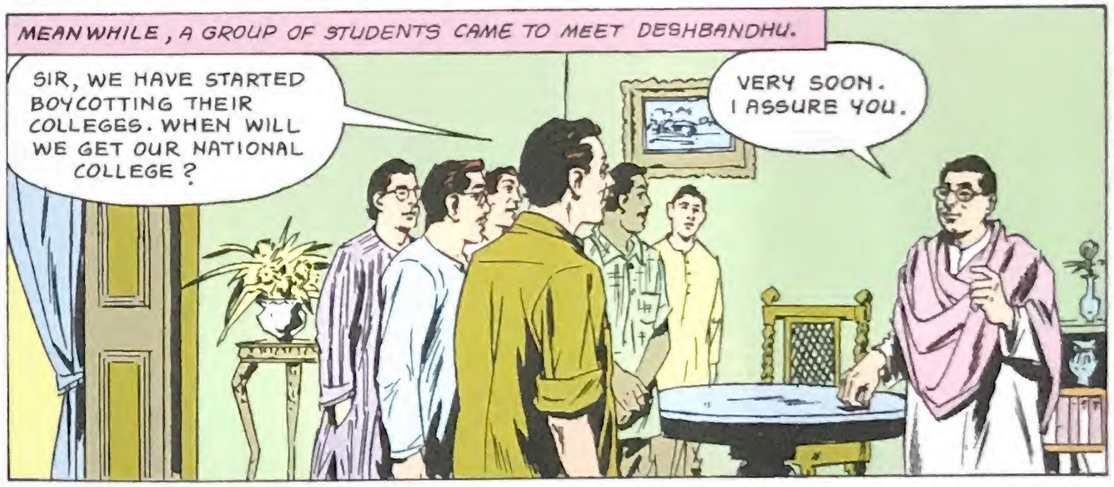

AND THAT WAS WHEN A MEMBER OF THE BANGIYA SAHITYA PARISHAD CAME TO HIM.
I HAVE COME FOR A DONATION, SIR.
ALL THAT IS HERE NOW BELONGS TO THE MOTHERLAND.

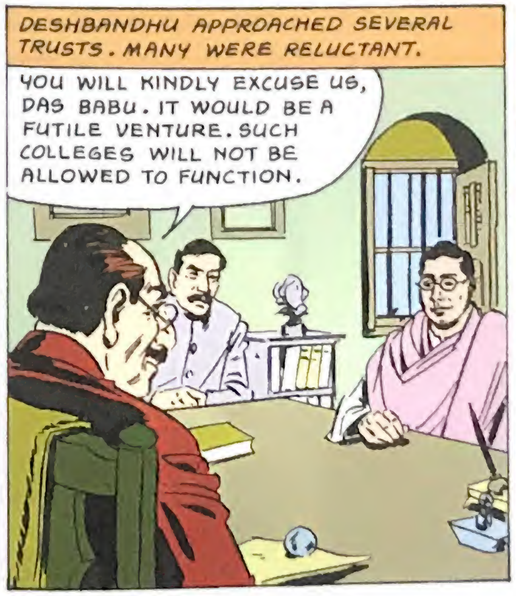
THEN OUR LIBRARY COULD USE THESE BOOKS.
THEY ARE YOURS. MANY MORE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THEM IF THEY WERE IN YOUR LIBRARY.


THE NATION HENCEFORTH LOVINGLY REFERRED TO THE BRILLIANT, HUMANE BARRISTER-TURNED-SATYAGRAHI AS "DESHBANDHU" CHITTARANJAN DAS.

ONE DAY A STRANGER CAME TO SEE DESHBANDHU.
MY FRIEND IN LONDON ASKED ME TO PERSONALLY DELIVER THIS LETTER TO YOU. HE COULD NOT RISK SENDING IT BY POST.


" I HAVE PASSED THE I.C.S. EXAMINATION BUT SERVICE UNDER AN ALIEN GOVERNMENT AND LOYALTY TO THE MOTHERLAND DON'T GO HAND IN HAND. I WISH TO JOIN YOU", HE WRITES. GOOD! WE NEED YOUNG MEN LIKE HIM.
THE LETTER WAS FROM NONE OTHER THAN SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WHO WAS THEN IN LONDON.


MEANWHILE, A GROUP OF STUDENTS CAME TO MEET DESHBANDHU.
SIR, WE HAVE STARTED BOYCOTTING THEIR COLLEGES. WHEN WILL WE GET OUR NATIONAL COLLEGE ?
VERY SOON. I ASSURE YOU.


DESHBANDHU APPROACHED SEVERAL TRUSTS. MANY WERE RELUCTANT.
YOU WILL KINDLY EXCUSE US, DAS BABU. IT WOULD BE A FUTILE VENTURE. SUCH COLLEGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO FUNCTION.

IN SPITE OF SUCH SCEPTICS DESHBANDHU STARTED THE GAURIYA SARVA VIDYAYATAN. MAHATMA GANDHI INAUGURATED THE COLLEGE AND SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WAS THE FIRST PRINCIPAL.
DESHBANDHU DESERVES OUR ADMIRATION FOR MAKING THIS DREAM COME TRUE WITHIN A MONTH OF OUR NAGPUR SESSION.

DESHBANDHU THEN BEGAN TO TOUR THE COUNTRY TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF THE CONGRESS. LARGE CROWDS GREETED HIM WHEREVER HE WENT.

WHAT WE WANT IS FREEDOM. NOT FOR THE ELITE ALONE, BUT FOR THE POOR TOO.

AT ONE STATION THE TRAIN HALTED AT 4 A.M. A SIKH ENTERED DESHBANDHU'S COMPARTMENT.

WHERE IS DESHBANDHU CHITTARANJAN DAS?

HE IS SLEEPING. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB HIM.

AH, THERE HE IS!

HEY WHAT IS THIS! PUT ME DOWN!

NOW I AM HAPPY. I HAVE TRAVELLED FOR SEVEN DAYS ON FOOT JUST TO SEE YOU!

AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE LIKE ME ARE WAITING OUTSIDE TO PAY YOU THEIR RESPECTS.

DESHBANDHU KI JAI.

THE PRINCE OF WALES WAS TO VISIT INDIA IN 1921 AND WAS TO REACH BOMBAY ON NOVEMBER 21 AND CALCUTTA ON DECEMBER 24.

I WANT VOLUNTEERS— A LAKH OF THEM. THEY WILL SELL KHADI IN THE STREETS AND TELL THE PEOPLE TO OBSERVE HARTAL DURING THE PRINCE'S VISIT.

HIS ONLY SON CHIRA RANJAN WAS ONE OF THE VOLUNTEERS. ANOTHER WAS HIS WIFE BASANTI DEVI.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MADAM?

I AM SELLING KHADI AND ASKING PEOPLE TO OBSERVE A HARTAL WHEN THE PRINCE OF WALES COMES TO CALCUTTA.

ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY WAS BASANTI DEVI.

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST! COME WITH ME.

WILLINGLY!

BASANTI DEVI WAS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM AND MANY EVEN IN THE POLICE, PROTESTED.

MOTHER, TO ARREST YOU IS WRONG! I CANNOT TOLERATE IT ANY MORE. I SHALL RESIGN.

BASANTI DEVI WAS RELEASED THAT NIGHT, AND WAS BACK AGAIN ON DUTY THE NEXT DAY. SHE WAS NOT OBSTRUCTED AGAIN.

THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL HAD A MEETING WITH DESHBANDHU.

I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE PLANNING ANOTHER INCIDENT WHEN THE PRINCE ARRIVES IN CALCUTTA ON 24TH DECEMBER. YOU MUST CALL IT OFF.

THAT IS AN ORDER OF THE CONGRESS. I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO CALL IT OFF!

WELL, YOU COULD RESTRAIN THE VOLUNTEERS.

IMPOSSIBLE. THEY ARE BUT DISCHARGING THEIR DUTIES.

DAS KNEW HE WOULD SOON BE ARRESTED. BUT HE WAS NOT PERTURBED.

CHILD, COULD YOU SPREAD A MAT FOR ME ON THE FLOOR?

I WISH TO TRAIN MYSELF FOR PRISON LIFE.

AND DAS BEGAN TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR.

TWO DAYS LATER —

THEY HAVE COME, FATHER.

I AM READY FOR THEM.

I WANT TO SEE THE WARRANT FOR MY ARREST.

IT IS NOT REQUIRED. YOU ARE ARRESTED UNDER SECTION 54.

WHEN WAS THE LAW CHANGED? SECTION 54 IS FOR CRIMINALS, NOT FOR POLITICAL WORKERS.

THE POLICE HAD NO ANSWER, BUT ARRESTED HIM NEVERTHELESS.

THE HEARING OF DESHBANDHU'S CASE WAS HELD INSIDE THE PRISON BECAUSE THE POLICE COULD NOT CONTROL THE CROWDS OUTSIDE THE COURT.

I SENTENCE YOU TO SIX MONTHS' SIMPLE IMPRISONMENT.

WILL YOU OPT FOR EUROPEAN CLASS, MR. DAS? YOU CAN GET FOOD FROM HOME.

WHAT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY FELLOW PRISONERS IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

DESHBANDHU DAS WAS THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE FORTHCOMING CONGRESS SESSION AT AHMEDABAD. SAROJINI NAIDU READ OUT THE SPEECH THAT HE WROTE IN PRISON.

...IT WOULD BE SHEER HYPOCRISY ON OUR PART TO EXTEND A NATIONAL WELCOME TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE POWER THAT WOULD DENY US OUR ELEMENTARY RIGHTS...

SUBHAS BOSE AND MANY OTHER FOLLOWERS OF DESHBANDHU WERE ALSO IN PRISON AT THE SAME TIME. THEY HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS.

I HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU. BUT AFTER BEING NEAR YOU AND KNOWING YOUR INNERMOST THOUGHTS I ADMIRE YOU ALL THE MORE.

DESHBANDHU'S HEALTH BEGAN TO DECLINE IN PRISON. ONE DAY —

BABU, YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO LOOK AFTER YOU. I WANT TO BE OF SERVICE.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

MATHOOR, BABU. I AM ONLY A COMMON THIEF.

THROUGHOUT DESHBANDHU'S ILLNESS MATHOOR WAITED ON HIM AND ATTENDED TO HIS NEEDS.

WHEN DESHBANDHU WAS TO BE RELEASED—

BABU, WHEN YOU LEAVE I WILL BE LIKE AN ORPHAN!

YOU TOO WILL BE RELEASED SOON! DO COME AND MEET ME.

WHEN MATHOOR WAS RELEASED, THERE WAS SOMEONE WAITING FOR HIM, OUTSIDE THE PRISON GATE.

ARE YOU MATHOOR? COME WITH ME. CHITTARANJAN BABU HAS SENT FOR YOU.

MATHOOR, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE IN MY HOUSE?

ME? IN YOUR HOUSE? WHO COULD ASK FOR MORE! AM I DREAMING?

THE HOUSEHOLD DID NOT APPROVE OF DAS'S GESTURE.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO TRUSTING TOWARDS A THIEF?

MATHOOR IS A CRIMINAL.

WAS, MY DEAR. I KNOW MATHOOR WELL. HAVE NO FEAR!

THE GAYA SESSION OF THE CONGRESS IN DECEMBER 1922 WITNESSED A SPLIT IN THE PARTY. DAS, AS ELECTED PRESIDENT, MADE A SPEECH.

THERE IS NO ROYAL ROAD TO FREEDOM. DARK AND DIFFICULT WILL BE THE PATH LEADING TO IT. BUT DAUNTLESS IS YOUR COURAGE, AND FIRM YOUR RESOLUTION; AND THOUGH THERE WILL BE REVERSES, SOMETIMES SEVERE REVERSES, THEY WILL ONLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF SPEEDING YOUR EMANCIPATION FROM THE BONDAGE OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

HE MOVED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COUNCIL ENTRY. IT WAS DEFEATED. MOTILAL AND DESHBANDHU RESIGNED FROM THE WORKING COMMITTEE.

OUR DIFFERENCE WILL ONLY BE FOR A SHORT WHILE. THE MAJORITY WILL SOON ACCEPT OUR POINT OF VIEW.

WITHIN THE CONGRESS, DAS AND MOTILAL NEHRU FORMED THE SWARAJYA PARTY.

DESHBANDHU TOURED ALL OVER INDIA TO EXPLAIN THE SWARAJYA PARTY'S PROGRAMME.

IF WE BOYCOTT THE LEGISLATURE THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE HAPPY. FOR SUCH A STEP WOULD MAKE ITS WORK THAT MUCH SIMPLER.

WE WILL TAKE THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE. WE WILL EFFECTIVELY BLOCK ALL GOVERNMENT MEASURES AS MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

DESHBANDHU MUSTERED A GOOD DEAL OF SUPPORT, AND AT THE 1923 SESSION OF THE CONGRESS IN DELHI THE MOOD WAS DIFFERENT.

IT IS USELESS TO BOYCOTT LEGISLATURES. WE SHOULD WIN AS MANY SEATS AS POSSIBLE. THE CONGRESS WILL NOT COME IN THE WAY OF THE SWARAJISTS.

DESHBANDHU AND HIS MEN CONTESTED THE ELECTION.

IT'S A LANDSLIDE VICTORY!

DESHBANDHU KI JAI!

THE GOVERNOR INVITED DESHBANDHU TO FORM A MINISTRY.

THIS IS MY REPLY. "MEMBERS OF MY PARTY ARE PLEDGED TO PUT AN END TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. I DECLINE TO ACCEPT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GRACIOUS OFFER".

THE SWARAJYA PARTY ACTED AS A POWERFUL OPPOSITION IN THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND VOTED DOWN ALL UNPOPULAR MEASURES.

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME WE HAVE DEFEATED THE OFFICIAL RESOLUTION. THE GOVERNMENT JUST CAN'T FUNCTION!

I KNEW NON-CO-OPERATION WOULD BE VERY EFFECTIVE!

ELECTIONS TO THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION WERE HELD AND HERE TOO DESHBANDHU AND HIS MEN WON EASILY. DESHBANDHU WAS ELECTED MAYOR AND SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE BECAME HIS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

WE INDIANS REGARD THE POOR AS GOD! I SHALL TRY TO DIRECT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CORPORATION TO SERVING THE POOR.

THE PRESSURE OF CEASELESS WORK BEGAN TO TELL ON DESHBANDHU'S HEALTH.

YOU MUST GO TO THE HILLS FOR A CHANGE. WE WILL MANAGE HERE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.

DESHBANDHU LEFT FOR SIMLA, BUT HE HAD TO CUT SHORT HIS HOLIDAY WHEN HE RECEIVED A WIRE FROM CALCUTTA.

THEY HAVE ARRESTED SUBHAS. I WILL HAVE TO RUSH DOWN.

MEETINGS WERE HELD IN PROTEST. DESHBANDHU SPOKE AT THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

IF LOVE FOR ONE'S COUNTRY IS A CRIME, SUBHAS IS A CRIMINAL. SO AM I! WHY WAS HE ARRESTED? THERE IS NO EXPLANATION. IS THIS LAW?

MAHATMA GANDHI CAME TO CALCUTTA AND NOW THERE WAS COMPLETE RAPPORT BETWEEN HIM AND DESHBANDHU.

YOU WERE RIGHT! IF THE BUREAUCRACY HAS TO USE SUCH MEASURES TO REPRESS ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, NON-CO-OPERATION HAS SUCCEEDED!

THIS RAPPORT WAS CONFIRMED AT THE BELGAUM CONFERENCE HELD IN 1924.

BOYCOTT OF FOREIGN CLOTH WILL REMAIN BUT BOYCOTT OF LEGISLATURES IS HENCEFORTH WITHDRAWN. THE CONGRESS WILL ADOPT THE PROGRAMME OF THE SWARAJYA PARTY.

THIS WAS A VICTORY FOR THE STAND TAKEN BY DAS AND MOTILAL.

DESHBANDHU'S HEALTH DETERIORATED.

DESHBANDHU, YOUR HEALTH WILL IMPROVE ONLY IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF AIR. COME TO DARJEELING AS MY GUEST.

THE SPEAKER WAS AN OLD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, SHRI N. N. SIRCAR.

BASANTI, LET US GO TO DARJEELING. SIRCAR WILL NOT TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.

GANDHI HAPPENED TO BE IN BENGAL AND JOINED DESHBANDHU AT DARJEELING. THEY WENT FOR WALKS AND HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS.

THE HOUSE HAD BECOME A SPINNING CLASS!

I CAN NEVER SPIN ON THE CHARKHA, WITHOUT BASANTI'S HELP, BAPUJI. SHE HOLDS THE KEY TO MY PLYING THE CHARKHA.

IT'S JUST A FEMININE WILE TO MAKE HER HUSBAND DEPENDENT ON HER.

THE HOST HAD ARRANGED FOR FIVE GOATS AS GANDHI DRANK ONLY GOAT'S MILK.

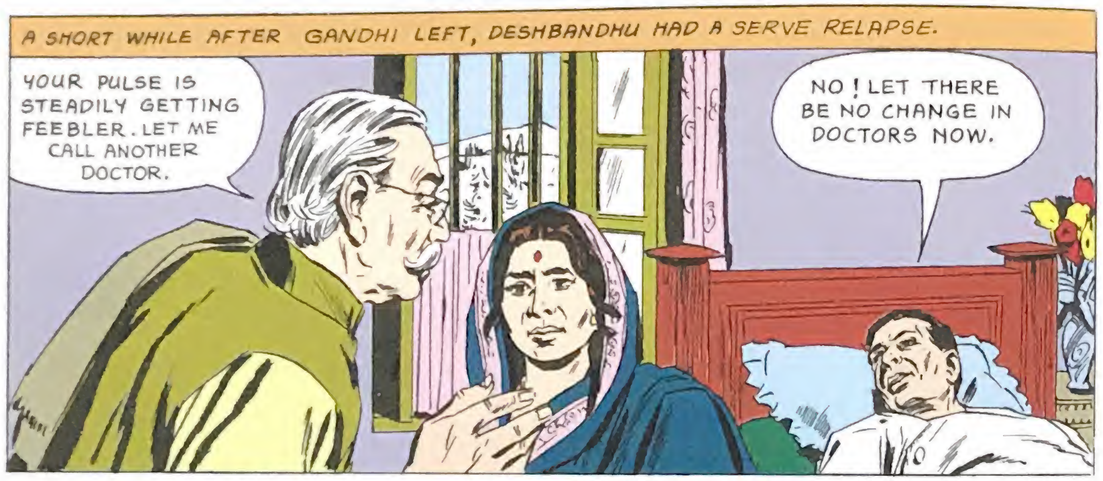
DO THEY GIVE MILK PROPERLY?

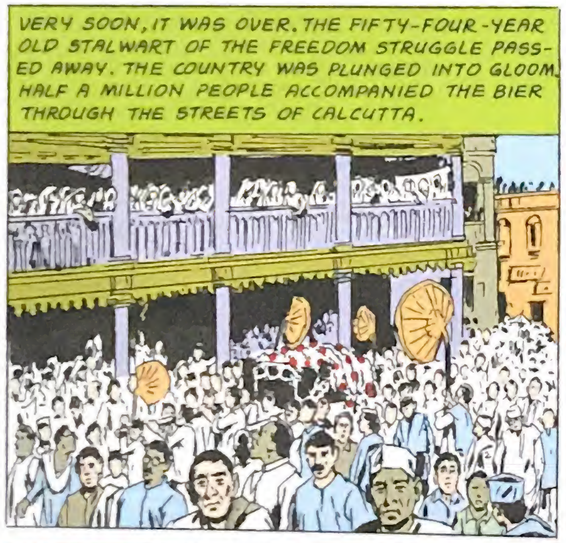
NO, SIR. OF THESE FIVE, ONLY TWO GIVE MILK. THE OTHER THREE JUST REFUSE.

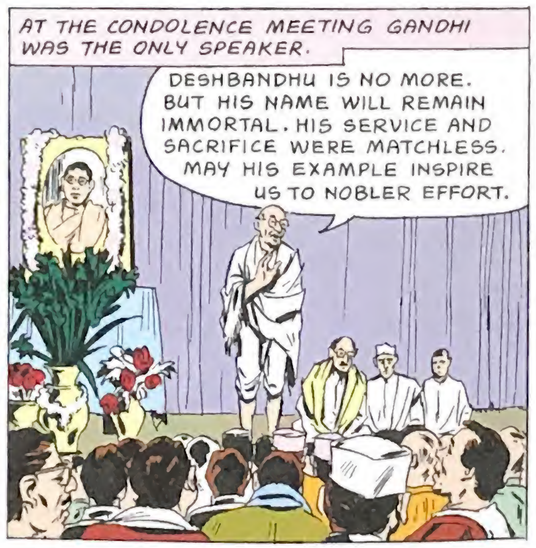
THESE THREE HAVE TAKEN TO NON-CO-OPERATION! PUT THEM IN A JAIL. THE LOYAL ONES SHOULD GET TITLES FROM BAPU!

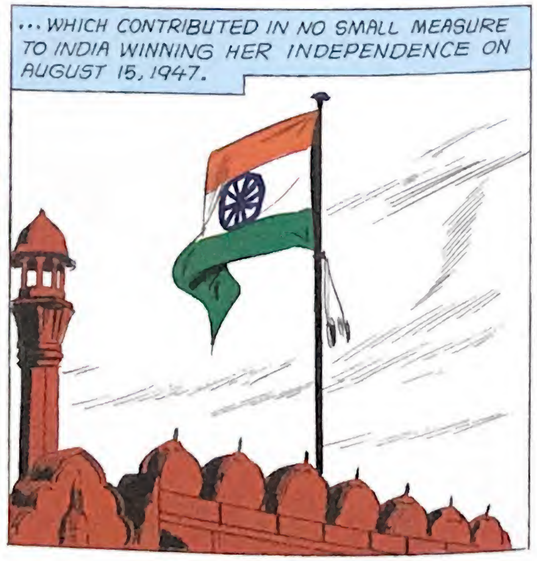
DESHBANDHU'S FEVER USED TO COME OFF AND ON.

THIS REMINDS ME OF OLD TIMES. KASTURBA USED TO SIT AT MY FEET AS I NOW SIT HERE!









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